

News briefs

Tops in Blue

Tops in Blue performs the "Spirit of America" Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base Fitness Center. Everyone is invited to attend and admission is free.

For more information, call the Spangdahlem AB Community Activities Center at 452-7381.

Holiday greetings

A video team from the Army and Air Force Hometown News Agency visits the Eifel Thursday and Sept. 27 to videotape holiday greetings. Service members and their families, as well as Defense Department U.S. civilian employees, who won't be home for the holidays, are invited to tape messages for family in the United States.

The team will conduct taping sessions both days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hanger 1. Appointments will be scheduled in five-minute increments. Call the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 452-4251 for appointments.

People are encouraged to bring family members to the taping session, but all active-duty military members must be in uniform. Additionally, people must bring addresses of family members in the states for the paperwork.

Shuttle change

Beginning Oct. 1, the wing's shuttle service will change.

The wing shuttle will no longer provide service to Binsfeld, Herforst and Speicher government-leased housing areas. The wing shuttle service will maintain the current route between Spangdahlem AB and the Bitburg Annex. The perimeter shuttle service will no longer exist. The existing internal Spangdahlem AB loop/schedule however, will remain intact.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Rick Shaner, 452-6649.

Community Bank renovations

The Spangdahlem Air Base Community Bank begins a renovation project soon. The project, when started, will take approximately two weeks to complete.

During the renovation, the main entrance door and the bank ATM will not be available. Customers should use the side entrance. There are three other ATMs on base -- by the BX, in the Saber Club and one at lodging.

Eifel Times

Vol. 36, Issue 34

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Sept. 20, 2002

AIMing for excellence

Senior Airman Christopher Stuckey, 22nd Fighter Squadron aircraft armament systems, installs an AIM-120 missile fin while preparing an F-16 to deploy during the 52nd Fighter Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection at Spangdahlem Air Base. To see more of the ORI, turn to Page 4.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Eifel Times changes Oct. 4, includes ads

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Members of the Eifel community no longer pay to receive their copy of Eifel Times, beginning with the Oct. 4 issue.

While people never actually paid out-of-pocket for the paper at a newspaper rack or by subscription, their tax dollars have paid for it since the base first began publishing a newspaper in the 1950s. That changes Oct. 1 when the Eifel Times is published for the first time under a commercial enterprise contract.

Efforts by the base contracting squadron and the public affairs office resulted in an agreement with a new publisher who will provide the newspaper at no charge to the government. In return, the publisher will have permission to sell ads.

In the past, nearly \$72,000 of the annual public affairs budget paid for printing the Eifel Times. "Now, advertisements sold by the new publisher - Verlag & Druck Wittich KG in Foehren - will pay for the printing," said Capt. Angela Johnson, chief of public affairs.

The actual publication will undergo a few changes, although most will be transparent to readers.

The most obvious change will be seeing advertising in the newspaper.

"Because the appearance of advertising in the paper doesn't constitute endorsement by the Defense Department, the Air

See Change, Page 2

YES program offers teens college money through volunteerism

By 1st Lt. Jessica C. Williams
52nd Contracting Squadron

High school students can now earn extra money toward college through volunteer work on base. The Youth Employment Skills program allows students in grades 9-12 to earn up to \$1,000 for college.

"Students can choose to work wherever they want as long it helps the local community," says Air Force Aid Society representative John Costello. "This is a great way for kids to get involved on base, learn new skills and raise money toward a higher education."

The YES program is a family support center, 52nd Services Squadron and AFAS initiative. Students fill out an application for the YES program, which will result in the opening of a YES bank account. Next, the student chooses where they want to volunteer on base.

According to Costello, "students can volunteer anywhere on base as long as they are being supervised." From the base vet clinic to the post office, students can take their pick.

For every hour a student works, \$4 will

go into their YES bank account. When they graduate, "students can use this money toward anything in college, like tuition, room and board or books," says Costello. "This also helps students gain a better understanding of how to save money and how much college costs."

All students are eligible for the \$1,000, regardless of household income, grade, nationality or extracurricular activities - any high school student can apply.

Another great benefit to the YES program is that AFAS will donate half of

what a student earns toward an improvement on the base.

"The great thing is that the student chooses where the money goes. It can go toward anything that will help the community," says Costello.

Since the students can earn \$1,000 for college and \$500 will go toward the local community, the YES program is a win-win situation for everyone.

For more information about the program, call Valerie Smith, YES program point of contact, at 452-9206 or Costello at 452-9491.

Accidents

By John W. Keeler
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Eighteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, four of which were major.

■ The first was on L-100 near Beilingen. An airman was swiftly approaching a traffic jam when she suddenly hit the brakes, lost control and rolled her vehicle. The airman suffered minor cuts and bruises to her forehead, and was taken to the Bitburg Annex Emergency Room for evaluation. The vehicle was damaged on the roof and in the front and was towed from the scene.

■ The second was on L-43 near Kordel and Daufenvach. An airman tried to slow down as he approached a curve when his vehicle hydroplaned, lost control, crossed the centerline and collided with a local national's vehicle. The personal injuries are unknown. The airman's vehicle was damaged on the driver's side door, front end and had a broken windshield. The local national's vehicle sustained an unknown amount of damage.

■ The third happened on B-257

near Bitburg. An airman witnessed two vehicles traveling in the opposite lane. When the second vehicle approached, it swerved into her lane and hit her vehicle. The airman sustained multiple injuries and was taken to the Bitburg Krankenhaus for treatment. Injuries to the other driver are unknown at this time. The driver's side of the airman's vehicle was damaged. The other vehicle had similar damage and both vehicles were towed from the scene.

■ The fourth happened at the crosswalk behind the Bitburg Annex Main Exchange. Security forces determined an airman drove through the pedestrian area without paying attention and hit a family member walking within the crosswalk. The family member was immediately transported to the emergency room where she was treated for minor bruises to her tailbone and arms. The incident is still under investigation.

The 14 minor accidents involved:

■ 12 from inattentive driving.

■ Two while backing.

In addition, 19 citations were issued.

Change

Continued from Page 1

Force or the 52nd Fighter Wing of the products or services advertised, the public affairs office doesn't solicit or receive the ads," said Staff Sgt. Cindy York, Eifel Times editor. "The office also doesn't know the advertising rates. All of this is necessary to avoid even the appearance of endorsement of any product or service advertised in the Eifel Times."

For information about advertising, including rates and submission deadlines, call Gunter Knopp at 06502-9147-110 or e-mail druckhaus@wittich-foehren.de.

York said no-fee classified advertising will continue under the new contract.

"Because the Der Markt section of the Eifel Times is such a popular service to the members of the Eifel community, the publisher agreed to continue providing the classified ad space at no cost," she said. "People can continue to submit to the Der Markt just as they have before, via e-mail at publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or fax it to us at 452-5254."

"But in fairness to the publisher, we're going to be more strict with our policy for Der Markt than we have been in the past. We will strictly enforce the two ads per family per week and 35-word limits. In addition, you must live or work on Spangdahlem Air Base, the Bitburg Annex or one of the nearby GSUs (geographically-

separated units) to submit. As always, they run as space is available."

Ads must be for the one-time sale of personal property, and not for a business, rental or recurring items. More information on Der Markt is available in each edition of the Eifel Times.

Readers will once again find the monthly four-page insert of services squadron happenings, beginning with the Oct. 25 issue. About six months ago, the unit was forced to discontinue the insert to save money.

"Public affairs worked with the contractor during negotiations to bring back a monthly insert strictly for use by services to raise awareness of the great programs, facilities and services provided by the morale, welfare and recreation arm of the wing," said Johnson.

People should continue to submit photographs, articles, story ideas and even complaints via the same methods as in the past - e-mail to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil, telephone 452-5244 or stop by the office in building 23. The deadline for newspaper submissions remains noon Friday for the next week's publication and Wednesday, 10 days prior to publication for Der Markt ads.

"Since this is the first time we've had a commercial enterprise newspaper in the Eifel, just how much advertising to expect remains to be seen," said Johnson. "However, saving 81 percent of an annual operating budget is a guarantee."

Fire protection flight offers prevention tips, information

By Inge Lersch
52nd Civil Engineer Squadron assistant chief of fire protection

This year, Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12 and the theme is "Team Up for Fire Safety." The fire protection flight hopes everyone in the Eifel community will team up with firefighters to learn how to prevent and protect himself or herself from fire.

What should Fire Prevention Week mean to everyone? It should be time to make sure homes stay free from fire. It's an opportunity to hunt for hazards, test smoke detectors, check electrical wiring for fraying, store matches away from children - to make certain members of Spangdahlem aren't among the statistics of those injured or killed by fire this year. Most importantly, it's a great opportunity to plan and conduct a home fire drill with every member of the household.

Developing and practicing a home fire escape plan that everyone understands can mean the difference between life and death. Fire can grow and spread through a home very quickly. It's important to react as soon as the smoke alarm sounds. These tips can help put together - and practice - an effective home fire escape plan.

■ Pull together everyone in the household and make a plan. Draw a floor plan of the home, showing two ways out of each room, including windows. Don't forget to mark the location of each smoke alarm.

■ Test all smoke alarms monthly to ensure they work. Replace batteries as needed.

■ Make sure that everyone understands the escape plan. Are the escape routes clear? Can doors and windows be opened easily?

■ If windows or doors in the home have security bars, make sure the bars have quick-release mechanisms so they can be opened immediately in an emergency.

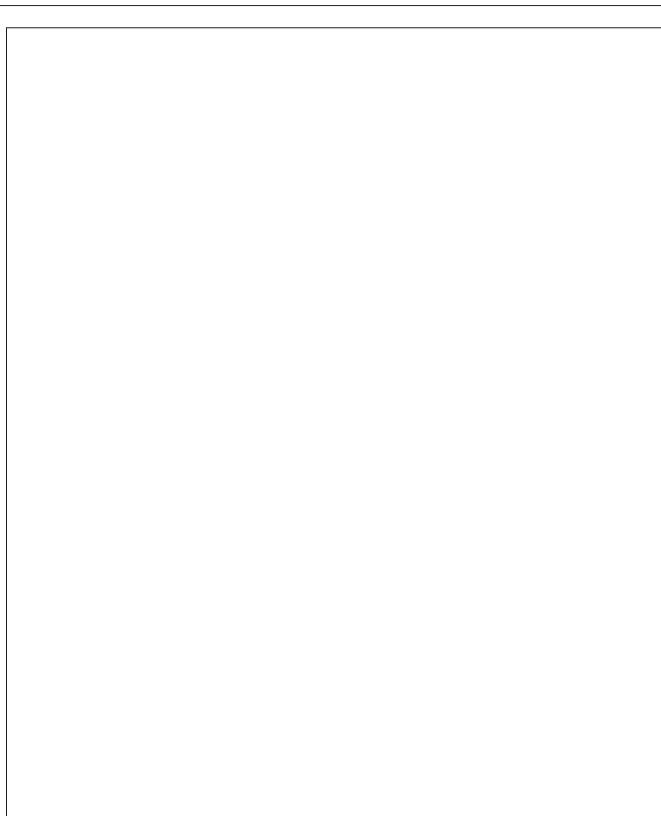
■ Practice the escape plan at least twice a year, making sure everyone is involved. If there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure someone is assigned to assist them.

■ Agree on an outside meeting place where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Remember to get out first and then call for help. Never go back inside until the fire department gives the OK.

■ Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a cellular phone or a neighbor's home.

■ Be fully prepared to respond to a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. After getting out, stay out - leave the fire fighting to the professionals.

Remembering the might of a huge fire, should inspire everyone to work together to make Spangdahlem Air Base the safest base in the Air Force.



Staff Sgt. Kimberly Drake

Senior NCO induction

The 52nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard marches into the wing's senior NCO induction at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center Saturday. The ceremony was a chance to welcome 65 Team Eifel master sergeant selects to the senior NCO corps.

Mailing meat to U.S. can cost \$100, more

By Robert Szostek
U.S. European Command Customs
Public Affairs Office

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Many Americans in Europe have received a \$100 fine from the U.S. Department of Agriculture because they mailed packages of wurst, ham or paté to the United States.

However, infestations of animal disease cost the U.S. taxpayer much more than this, such as millions of dollars each year. Therefore it is illegal to import red meats and sausage into the USA without USDA approval.

Trying to "sneak" them into the country is a crime and it is worth remembering this when preparing Christmas shopping lists later in the year.

USDA routinely checks packages from

overseas to see if they contain prohibited food products.

"All packages mailed to the USA must have a customs declaration," said Delcio Rivera, USDA adviser to the European Command. "In many cases, people falsely list the contents of the packages. Willfully trying to import anything into the USA without declaring it is smuggling and carries very stiff penalties and fines," he added.

To aid in the fight against pests and diseases in the USA, everyone must do his or her part.

"We can all start by honoring our import laws," Rivera stated. "Not only is it the right thing to do - it's the law."

Call the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron customs office at 452-6027 or visit www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm.

Civil engineer officials explain base winter heating policy

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Weather conditions in the Eifel are unpredictable, and can vary significantly week to week.

The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron is responsible for maintaining and operating six manned- and 131 unmanned-heating plants on Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex, and determining when to turn on heat to base facilities.

The timing to begin this procedure takes into account mission requirements, quality of life and energy conservation.

According to Spangdahlem AB policy, around Aug. 1, daily temperatures are recorded to determine the best day to start heating.

Generally, when there are five consecutive days with an average temperature under 55 degrees Fahrenheit or 13 degrees Celsius, the

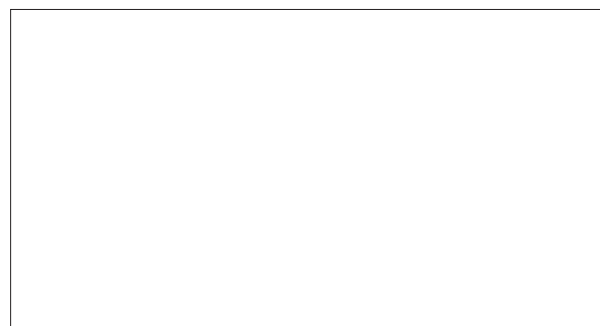
startup procedures are initiated. This starts with on-base and government-leased housing areas, dormitories, lodging and schools —followed by office and industrial facilities.

Priority facilities, such as the hospitals, dental clinics, child development centers and 24-hour operation facilities, whose missions dictate controlled environmental conditions, will be provided heat year-round to ensure mission accomplishment.

CE's objectives are to meet mission requirements, while taking into account the most valuable resources - the people - while striving to meet Air Force fuel reductions and energy goals.

For more information about the heating policy or to find out approximately when heat was turned on last year, call Senior Master Sgt. Frazier Speaks at 452-6960.

Eifel Elite



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Staff Sgt. Jennie Altheimer, 52nd Fighter Wing Command Post, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Staff Sgt. Jennie Altheimer

Unit, duty title: 52nd Fighter Wing Command Post emergency actions controller

Hometown: St. Louis

Time in Service: Six years

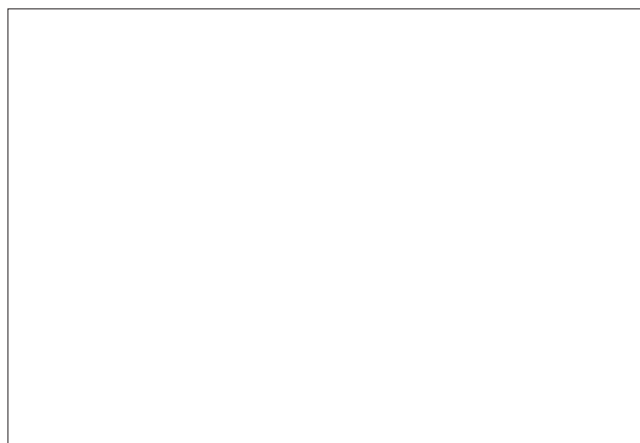
Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: Staff Sergeant Altheimer is a dynamo, who is constantly identifying broken processes and fixing them. She hit the ground running after arriving from Osan Air Base, Korea, in January 2002 and established herself as one of the command post's best controllers. Her experience and common sense have been key to improving the way the command post does its job of keeping the wing's commanders and first responders informed on emergency situations, according to Maj. Michael Platt, chief of the command post.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: Involved in shows by ACT Eifel.

What do you do for fun? Or, What's a fun thing you've done lately? Going to festivals in the surrounding areas.

What do you like most about being stationed here? The wine (and food).

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? A larger facility to better accommodate everyone who operates out of the wing operations center during exercises and contingencies.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

The public affairs office was selected as this week's Top Saber Team.

Top Saber Team

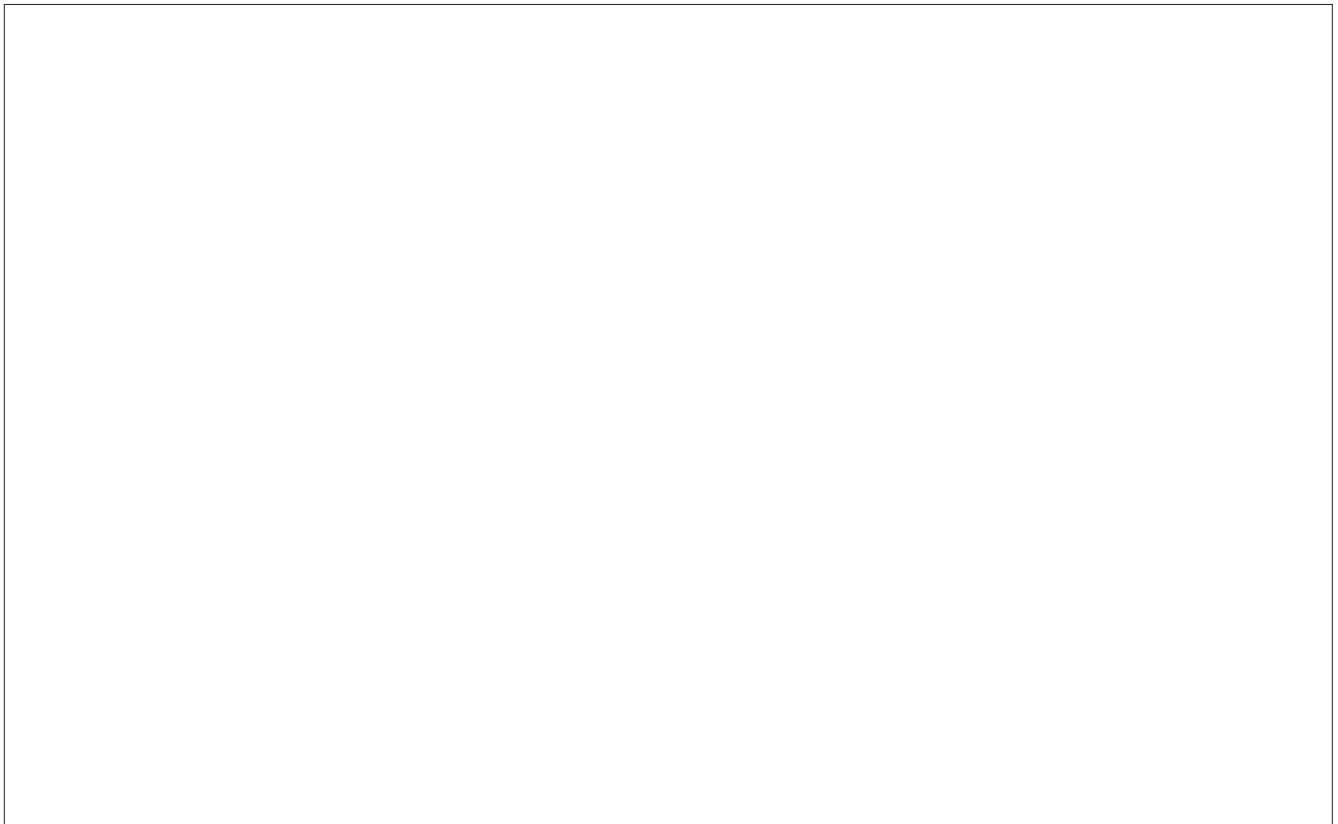
Unit name: 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Selected by: Col. Stephen P. Mueller, 52nd FW commander

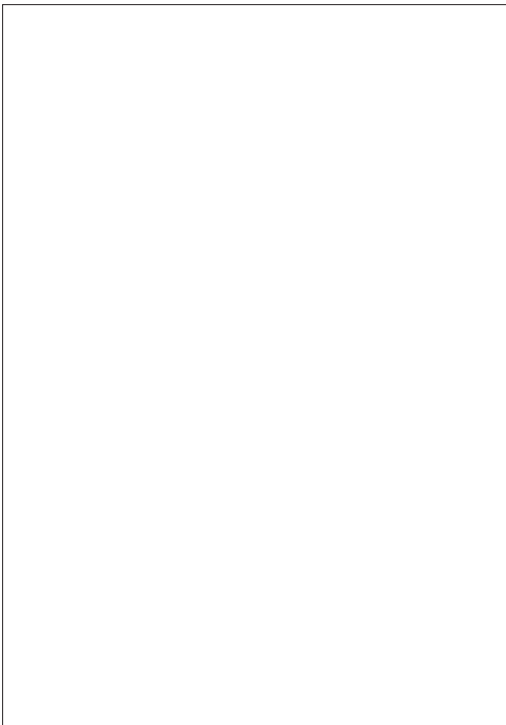
Number of members: Two officers, three enlisted, one civilian and an enlisted information manager.

Responsibilities: Produces the weekly newspaper, the Eifel Times, coordinates with local and international media to answer questions and tell the Spangdahlem Air Base story to the world.

How does the team fit in to the 52nd FW's mission: Recently, the public affairs team helped keep the public informed during a bomb scare. They ensured the international media community had all necessary information to properly report on the incident. They also coordinated coverage of the Patriot's Day ceremony. Since January, the team has gone TDY and deployed 13 times to six different countries to support wing operations. The PA office also supports the wing by sending hometown news releases to local newspapers in the United States. This helps wing members receive recognition for special events such as promotion, permanent change of station and awards. In addition, the office puts together the newspaper and 5,000 copies of it are delivered to the base weekly.

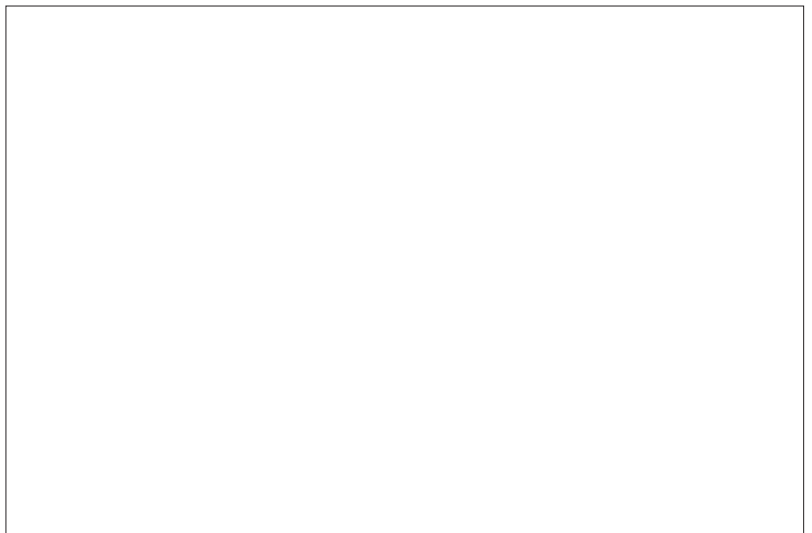


Tech. Sgt. Guadalupe Vasquez, 22nd Fighter Squadron, checks duty schedules during inprocessing at Base X during an Operational Readiness Inspection at Spangdahlem Air Base. Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook



Airman 1st Class Karolina Gmyrek
Master Sgt. David P. Moore, 52nd Mission Support Squadron, inspects a decontamination kit issued at the mobility bag issue point Wednesday.

ORI tests Spangdahlem's ability to 'pack up, move out'



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook
Master Sgt. David Wedyke, 52nd Medical Support Squadron, downloads a pallet of medical supplies at the cargo processing area during the Operational Readiness Inspection at Spangdahlem AB. The no-notice inspection kicked-off Tuesday around noon.

Staff Sgt. Jason Young, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron engines specialist, exchanges a "big guns" salute with Capt. Jared Hutchinson, as the 23rd FS pilot taxis to the runway for take off Sept. 11 at NATO Air Meet 2002. A German air force crewchief watches while awaiting taxi clearance for their F-4F Phantom.

Hawks 'jam' at NATO Air Meet 02

Staff Sgt. Ryan Edwards and Senior Airman James Barrett, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions flight specialists, load chaff and flare canister modules for the Fighter Hawk's next sortie during NATO Air Meet 2002. Throughout the meet, pilots practiced using chaff and flare as a defensive countermeasure. Chaff consists of aluminum particles, which when dispersed from an aircraft, confuses enemy radar. Flares burn hotter than engine exhaust and are used to throw off infrared sensors on enemy heat-seeking missiles.

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Throughout NATO Air Meet 2002, Sept. 2-12, at Oerland Main Air Station, Norway, allies gained the opportunity to work closely together both on and off the flightline.

The primary goal of the event involving 12 of 19 NATO nations, was to increase combined air operations interoperability. However, the meet also met its alternate goal of improving allied cooperation in general.

"You fight a better war with people you know," said Maj. Gen. J.T. Bakker, exercise director.

The meet exceeded 23rd Fighter Squadron pilots' expectations in that they were able to fly higher, lower and faster, while practicing offensive and defensive measures they're unable to use in Germany.

"The most significant lesson learned was the importance of operating in combat environments where there is radar and communications jamming," said Maj. James Robinson, 23rd FS deployed commander.

The effects of jamming are new to many of the younger pilots because 52nd Fighter Wing pilots don't get to work with jamming during local training sorties, Robinson explained.

"To combat the effects of jamming, we worked with 'Have Quick,' a technique where our radios rapidly change frequencies in a selectable pattern. The 23rd FS has begun to operate with HQ on local training sorties when working with the 606th Air Control Squadron. This training helps build confidence in the systems we use during wartime."

One strength the Fighter Hawks' demonstrated at the meet was the squadron's ability to provide reactive suppression of enemy air defenses, said Robinson.

"Many countries provide SEAD using the AGM-88 HARM missile as a source of pre-planned suppression. The F-16CJ provides the unique capability of real-time targeting of enemy radars with the HARM Targeting System pod," he said. "The HTS pods allow 52nd Fighter Wing CJs to detect enemy radar emissions on the ground and employ the HARM missile against those sites."

First Lt. Jonathan Dowty, 23rd Fighter Squadron pilot, and Airman 1st Class Glen Schoenmann, 23rd FS crew chief, await taxi clearance during the first day of flying during the meet. A Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 from Hickam Air Force Base taxis to the runway for take off. Throughout the event, 23rd FS pilots flew "blue air," either as the "striker," who's mission is to destroy ground targets, or as offensive air-to-air, protecting the strikers. Hickam AFB F-15s flew red and blue air.

Another valuable asset the 23rd brought to NAM was the ability to employ J-Series weapons, said the deployed squadron commander. These weapons use satellite navigation systems to strike targets at fixed locations, regardless of the weather or time of day.

While Fighting Hawk pilots were thwarting enemy communications and demonstrating teamwork in the air, 23rd FS members carried on the teamwork spirit from the flightline. Squadron aerospace ground equipment members helped German aircraft maintainers by providing towing assistance. Additionally, the 23rd FS, teamed up with the Hawaiian Air National Guard to man the crash recovery post. However, such actions aren't unusual, according to Staff Sgt. Dejuan Wilkins, 23rd Fighter Squadron crew chief. Although they don't commonly take place across international, active-duty and Guard lines.

"Everyone comes together and works as a team on deployments," said Wilkins. "Back at home, AGE and backshop members usually do their job from their own areas, but here, we all need to pitch in to get the job done. For example, fuel shop members are pulling fireguard duty and helping to launch jets. We have to get it done and get it done right and if people don't help, the whole mission could fail."

Despite rainy conditions and flight delays the first week of the event, the 23rd FS met its flight obligations completing 41 sorties, including a night flying operation, without a mishap.

52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Avionics Flight Specialists Staff Sgt. Bill Houston, top left, Tech. Sgt. Erik Johansen, top right, run up radar warning receiver system checks on a 23rd Fighter Squadron F-16CJ as Airman 1st Class Bryce Edwards, bottom left, and Senior Airman Steven Maestas, conduct reprogramming from the tarmac.

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Mueller.....Commander
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

This fund-
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authorized publi-
cation for mem-
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military services
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Contents of the
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Government, the Department of Defense
or the Department of the Air Force.
Editorial content is edited, prepared and
provided by the public affairs office.

People may submit articles for publi-
cation in the Eifel Times to the public
affairs office, building 23. **Deadline for
submission is 10 days prior to desired
publication date** and noon Mondays for
weekend sports. Submission of articles by
deadlines does not guarantee publication.
All articles are considered for publication.
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style, dictate article allocation. The Eifel
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Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to
get answers to questions you still have
after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will
be published in the Eifel Times and may
be edited or paraphrased for brevity or
clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■ Direct Line@spangdahlem.af.mil
■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680
Box 220, APO AE 09126

■ To public affairs in building 23.
■ Concerns may also be sent via fax
to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To
receive a personal response you must
include your name and phone number.
Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for
more information.

Number of days since last DUI:

As of Thursday

11

You have a choice.
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
at 452-2233.

Viewpoint

Sept. 20, 2002

Page 6

Commander's perspective

Right now is the time for a balancing act

By Lt. Col. Don Hinkson
52nd Communications Squadron commander

From my perspective, it seems like life is
flying by at breakneck speed. I see people,
myself included, trying to juggle and prioritize
the heavy workload of their job with the
competing demands of family and other
personal interests and priorities.

Many seem to be locked into a permanent
overdrive mode and are at risk of burning
themselves out and/or damaging relationships
due to the priorities they've chosen. I would
suggest what is sorely needed is a healthy
balance between the demands of work, family
and other priorities such as our relationship with
God, friends and recreation or sports activities.

Available time and life priorities are two
competing elements everyone must wrestle with
as we proceed at rapid pace in the human race.
Each one of us is pulled in many different
directions by a variety of demands and people.
For most of us, our available time doesn't come
close to satisfying the requirements placed upon
us. Multiple tasks and requests hit us at work.

After work, our desire may be to chill out
with a good book or in front of the TV while a
son or daughter or spouse or someone else wants
our exclusive attention.

Each one of us is given the same amount of
time to work with each day and it's up to each of
us to use what we have wisely. For many, the
requirements of the workplace are the priority to

which all else takes a backseat. Certainly, as
members of the U.S. military, we have a special
responsibility to faithfully carry out our assigned
duties.

While the very reason we are assigned to
Spangdahlem Air Base is to carry out our
assigned mission, this must always be tempered
with a balance of other priorities. Without
balance, we risk damaging our minds and bodies
and/or injuring the relationships that are most
dear to us. This not only puts our mental and
physical health at risk, it also impairs our ability
to perform well at work and to accomplish the
mission.

The importance of family, friends, recreation
activities and other personal priorities cannot be
understated. As an example, today's military
family is under a tremendous amount of stress
due to what we, as military members, are called
to do. Deployments, the high operations tempo
and long workdays all combine to place
tremendous strain on family relationships. At
Spangdahlem AB, we have the added strain of
being an ocean away from our extended family
and loved ones.

Healthy families and relationships don't just
happen. They require a considerable amount of
time and effort. Without a conscious,
determined decision to give our families the
priority and time that they deserve, they simply
won't get the attention they deserve from us.

That may seem obvious to many, but if

you're anything like me it's all too easy to let
the demands and pressures of the workplace
drown out my good intentions to leave work at a
decent hour and spend time with my family.

Families are just one of many possible
priorities we need to balance. Similarly, our
health and/or mental well being will suffer if we
ignore regular exercise, sports activities and
recreation. And the list could go on with
numerous other examples.

So what are the priorities in your life? Is
anything a priority to you beyond success in the
workplace? Are your priorities out of balance
and causing unnecessary friction and stress in
your life? Years from now, I would venture that
a successful career won't mean much if it comes
at the cost of broken relationships with loved
ones or other missed opportunities.

I for one know I need to better manage my
time and spend more time with my wife and
children. Time passes too quickly not to make
family and friends a priority in my life. To do
otherwise is to miss out on some of the true joys
in life and to face regret later.

The most powerful and productive life is one
that knows where it is headed, knows its
priorities and stays free of clutter and
distractions. So I believe it is time for a
balancing act. It's time to reflect on what is truly
important and to adjust our heading if needed.
The time for balance is now. Let's all choose
wisely.

POW/MIA Day

By Master Sgt. Fredrick Warner
52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron

(Editor's note: Prisoner of
War/Missing in Action Day is
today.)

"I am an American serving in
the forces that guard our country
and way of life. If required I will
gladly give my life in their
defense."

What is the limit of your
sacrifice for freedom? Are you
willing to live in a small dark
room? Can you eat bugs for extra
food? Would you remain silent
while the screams of your
roommate reverberate through the

walls of your cell?

Can you evade capture behind
enemy lines for an indefinite time,
until help arrives? What would you
do for the cause of freedom if your
life was all you had to fight with? If
just your existence provided a
symbol of your nation's resolve to
your oppressors, what could you
do?

Prisoners of war and those
missing in action are folks, like you
and I; families, lives, dreams, goals
and serving our country, just like
you and I. Circumstances have
forced them to be a symbol of
resistance to their oppressors. Their

lives are a daily struggle to remain
a symbol of our nation's resolve to
their survival. Their lives provide
military members hope in that we
will not be forgotten should we join
their ranks.

Countless lives have changed as
a result of personal sacrifice. In a
speech to the National League of
Families, Gen. Richard B. Myers,
chairman of the joint chiefs of staff,
added to the MIA total.

"(More than) 1,800 persons —
men, women and children — have
not been accounted for," — those
lost Sept. 11, 2001. The pain we
feel for those of our profession

missing in action and prisoners of
war became a national cry as the
lines of one profession or another
disappeared with this tragic loss in
a time of peace for our nation.

So today while you're in line at
the commissary, or the bank, or
proudly saluting during the
National Anthem, take a minute
and remember that as it has been
stated countless times, "No greater
love has man than to lay his life
down for a friend."

Our comrades who are POWs
and MIAs certainly have given you
and I years of their life for the hope
of a brighter tomorrow.

Direct Line

driving all the way to Bitburg Annex to get a
good sub sandwich at Charley's.

I've seen how much business Subway does at
the passenger terminal at Ramstein AB; the line
there was unbelievable.

I feel putting an establishment like that on
Spangdahlem AB not only provides a healthier
eating establishment, but also creates jobs for
people.

Answer: Thank you for providing input
on how Spangdahlem Air Base can bet-
ter serve our people. For the past several
months, the Army and Air Force Exchange
Service has been working to establish a Subway
here.

The location will be in the Spangdahlem AB
BXtra. Some issues are still being resolved, but I
hope to begin operations by early next year.

Community Mailbox

Marriage seminar

A marriage seminar sponsored by the base chapel begins Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 139. The seminar consists of seven sessions, running consecutively each Tuesday. The seminar is for couples who are currently dating, engaged or already married.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Marc Peck at 452-6386 or 06561-947573 or the chapel at 452-6711.

School news

■The Bitburg Middle School registrar's new office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Parents who need to register students or have questions about schedules, absences or other issues can call Janet Hinskey at 452-9031 or 452-9332.

■Bitburg Elementary School holds a child-find screening Tuesday. The screening is for 3-5-year-old children with a suspected delay in language, social, motor, cognitive or self-help skills.

For more information or to sign-up for a screening, call 452-9210

■Spangdahlem Elementary School holds a child-find screening Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The screening is for 3-4-year-old children with a suspected delay in language, social, motor, cognitive or self-help skills.

The screening is open to children whose parents reside on Spangdahlem Air Base, or in the Spangdahlem AB "feeder plan."

For more information or to sign-up for a screening, call 452-5071 or 452-6881.

Support groups

■A meeting of the support group for families with attention deficit disorder takes place Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427. Dinner and child-care will be provided.

For more information, e-mail myra@myrarock.com or call Myra Rock at 452-7545.

■Helping Hands, a support group for parents of children with special needs such as autistic spectrum disorders, pervasive developmental disorders and down's syndrome, meets Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427.

Free dinner and childcare will be provided. For more information, call Capt. Michelle Ambrose at 452-8238 or 06565-958238.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association Chapter 1681 holds a general membership meeting at the Spang Club Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

All chapter members and those interested in joining AFSA are invited. Light snacks will be served starting at 11:15 a.m.

Spouses' meeting

The 606th Air Control Squadron spouses group meets Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Bitburg Chapel Annex. For more information, e-mail Lisa Weiss at spouse606acs@yahoo.com or call 06568-969891.

Case-lot sale

A case-lot sale takes place at the Bitburg Annex Commissary Saturday and Sunday. The store opens at 7 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Toyland opening

The Toyland grand opening takes place at the Spangdahlem BXtra Sept. 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Santa and Sparky the fire dog will arrive via firetruck at 11 a.m. There will be pictures with Santa, games, prizes, a clown and face painting.

The fun continues Sunday when patrons receive 10 percent off purchases, not to exceed \$100, for shopping in pyjamas. There will also be games, prizes and giveaways Sunday.

Eifel School Board

An Eifel School Board public meeting takes place Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Middle School multi-purpose room. For details, call Mia Checkley at 452-6849.

French classes

The family support center holds free French classes beginning Sept. 30 from 6-8 p.m. in Bitburg Annex building 2001. The class runs six weeks.

For more information or to sign-up, call 452-9491 or 06565-619491.

Holiday bazaar news

■Volunteers are needed for the Eifel holiday bazaar Nov. 15-17. For more information, or to volunteer, call Kelli Owens at 06571-147977.

■Non-profit organizations interested in hosting an informational booth at the holiday bazaar should call Lisa Bruce at 06575-903429 or e-mail thebruces@t-online.de. Those interested should respond by Sept. 30.

Spain trip

The Evangel Temple Fellowship Church sponsors a seven-day trip to Spain Nov. 10-16.

The cost for the trip, which visits Barcelona, Madrid, Bordeaux and more, is 400 euro per person.

For more information or to sign up, call Staff Sgt. Eunice Porter at 06565-942156 or Staff Sgt. Latitia Austin at 06580-917809.

Boost Up Program

Military members can take advantage of a new program to "boost up" Military GI Bill benefits by up to \$5,400 by contributing up to \$600.

This program is only open to active-duty members who first entered active-duty on or after July 1, 1985.

Eligible participants may take advantage of this program at any time while on active duty. The benefit is not open to Vietnam-era "rollover" personnel or VEAP convertees.

For more information, call the education center at 452-6063.

Cultural study

The University of Maryland University College Mannheim Campus sponsors study tours during the fall semester, which runs now through Dec. 13.

Students can embark on a tour to Florence, Italy, from Nov. 26 through Dec.

1. This art class focuses on Michelangelo and the impact of Florentine art on his masterpieces.

The course is one credit and costs \$275. The trip includes roundtrip bus transportation, four overnights in a hotel and museum entry. The deadline to sign-up is Nov. 6.

For more information about the cultural tours, call the Mannheim Campus office at 380-4877 or 0621-33740 or visit www.mc.umuc.edu.

Club giveaway

The Air Force Clubs are giving away numerous gifts of electronic entertainment equipment in the electrified membership drive.

New and current club members across the Air Force will become eligible to receive gifts like plasma and flat-screen TVs, home theater systems, personal component stereo systems, portable DVD players, MP3 players and more.

During the drive, which runs now through Dec. 20, Air Force Clubs hopes to sign-up 10,000 new members. All will be eligible for prizes that will be given to scores of people who join any club worldwide.

Current club members are automatically entered to win a special set of prizes just for them. Winners will be randomly selected for each prize.

"We always want to recognize existing members," said Mike Boyd, club complex manager. "They are the lifeblood of our clubs. Plus, they are one of the best forms of endorsements for an evolving club that offers something for all."

Besides meals and entertainment, other membership benefits include special discounts on food, entertainment, special functions and bingo, chances to win a trip to the Super Bowl, Pro Bowl and a regular season NFL game.

For more information, call the Saber club at 452-6090.

Single military dinner

A single's military dinner takes place Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. The dinner is for all single or unaccompanied officer or enlisted members.

Der Markt

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Signs (PG-13)

Signs is a thriller set in Bucks County, Pa., focusing on the mysterious appearance of a 500-foot design of circles and lines carved into a family's crops. Mel Gibson stars as Graham Hess, the family patriarch, who is tested in his journey to find the truth behind the unfolding mystery. Joaquin Phoenix is Merrill Hess, brother to Graham and a former minor league baseball star. (Some frightening moments.)

Saturday

Powerpuff Girls (PG)

Based on the hit animated television series, this feature film adaptation tells the story of how Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup - three exuberant young girls - obtain their unique powers, become superheroes and join forces to foil evil mutant monkey Mojo Jojo's plan to take over the world.

Sunday

Signs

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Star Wars: Episode 2

Ten years after the events of The Phantom Menace, not only has the galaxy undergone significant change, but so have our familiar heroes Obi-Wan Kenobi, Padmé Amidala and Anakin Skywalker as they are thrown together again for the first time since the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo. Anakin has grown into the accomplished Jedi apprentice of Obi-Wan, who himself has transitioned from student to teacher. The two Jedi are assigned to protect Padmé whose life is threatened by a faction of political separatists. As relationships form and powerful forces collide, these heroes face choices that will impact not only their own fates, but the destiny of the Republic. (Sustained sequences of sci-fi action/violence.)

Thursday

Powerpuff Girls

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Mr. Deeds (PG-13)

Mr. Deeds is a young man from the small town of Mandrake Falls, N.H., who inherits controlling interest in a massive media corporation from his deceased uncle. He then starts injecting his small town values into its various businesses. (For language including sexual references and some rear nudity)

Blood Work (R, 10 p.m.)

A retired FBI profiler is brought back into service under unusual circumstances involving his own blood analysis to track a ruthless serial killer. The film is based on the novel by Michael Connelly. (Violence and language)

Saturday

Like Mike (PG)

Calvin is a teen who dreams of being a famous pro basketball player. But his relatively diminutive stature and limited ability make his goal a far-off fantasy. Or is it? When he buys a pair of magical basketball shoes that legend says belonged to a great basketball star, Calvin displays amazing hoop skills and leads a struggling NBA team to victory. (Brief mild language)

Blood Work (10 p.m.)

Sunday

Like Mike

Monday

Mr. Deeds

Tuesday

Blood Work

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Munich's Oktoberfest kicks off today

Germany's largest, most famous fest runs through Oct. 6

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The most famous and biggest traditional festival in Germany is the Oktober Festival in Munich.

It runs for 16 days, always ending on the first Sunday in October, which is Oct. 6 this year. The huge "Volksfest" is held on the Theresienwiese in Munich with a huge number of visitors and a correspondingly immense consumption of beer and white sausage.

The reason for its creation was a wedding in 1810 in the Bavarian ruling house, in honor of which a horse race and public festival were held.

The following year the festival was repeated and expanded by an agricultural exhibit to give Bavarian's agriculture impetus for development and improvement.

This year's celebrations kick off this afternoon when the lord mayor of Munich taps the first keg of beer. Entertainment and fun will be featured everywhere on the Theresienwiese fairgrounds.

A number of Oktoberfest tours, to include a grand-opening trip, are available from the Spangdahlem AB ITT office.

Three express tours without overnight stays are available Saturday, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Cost is \$75 per seat. Seats are still available for overnight Oktoberfest tours, Oct. 5 and 6. Cost is \$219 per seat

including one-overnight stay with breakfast, and reservations at the largest festival tent, the Hofbraeuhaus tent. Also included are vouchers in the amount of \$30 at this tent and a city tour.

For details and reservations, call the Spangdahlem ITT office, Monday

through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 452-6567 or 7770 or the Bitburg ITT office, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 06561-945937. Reservations and payment can be made over the phone or in person. Major credit cards will be accepted.

Courtesy photo

The most famous and biggest festival in Germany, October Festival, kicks off today in Munich. The fest, known simply as Oktoberfest, runs through Oct. 6 this year. People can still make plans to take a tour to Oktoberfest through the Spangdahlem Air Base or Bitburg Annex ITT offices.

Out and About

(Note: Events are subject to change at short notice. To double-check on an event prior to attending, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. Tourist office agents, who usually speak English, can say whether an event was canceled.)

■The Rhine will be set aflame with fire works displays Saturday at 10 p.m. in St. Goar and St. Goarhausen. Call 06741-383 for more information.

■The popular Bernkastel St. Michael's festival takes place Sept. 27-30.

■Moselland-Exhibition 2002, the biggest trade and entertainment fair of the region, takes place Sept. 28-Oct. 6 on the Trier Moselauen fairgrounds.

■The German-American Friendship Club travels to Dresden. Call Gisela Traut at 06562-2464 for details.

■The Trier Thanksgiving Festival and Farmer's Market takes place Oct. 5 in front of the Porta Nigra.

■The Bitburg sales market takes place Oct. 11 on the Bedaplatz.

■The Bitburg famer's market takes place Oct. 13. Stores will be open from 1-5 p.m.

■The Munich Kirchweihdult, or offering market, takes place Oct. 19-27. The event features various forms of entertainment.

■The Trier Allerheiligen Fair takes place Oct. 25-Nov. 3. The event features amusement rides and entertainment.

■Stores open throughout Trier Oct. 27.

...

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in September and October.

People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activity Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex ITT office at 06561-945937 for details.

■Rhein in Flames, St. Goar, Saturday. Cost is \$80.

■Medieval Dinner at Cochem Castle, Saturday. Cost is \$65.

■Brussels express, Sept. 28. Cost is

\$35 for ages 3-12 and \$40 for adults.

■Karlsbad and Flea market shopping, Oct. 11-12. Cost is \$60 for single seat, \$90 for double seat.

■Heidelberg Bazaar, Oct. 12. Cost is \$20 for children, \$25 for adults.

■Medieval Dinner at Cochem Castle, Oct. 12. Cost is \$65.

■Berlin, Oct. 12-13. Cost is \$134 for ages 3-12, \$159 for adults.

■Poland shopping express, Oct. 18-19. Cost is \$80 for single seat, \$110 for double seat.

■Paris delight, Oct. 19-20. Cost is \$134 for ages 3-12 and \$189 for adults.

■Frankenstein's Castle and Halloween party, Oct. 26. Cost is \$39.

■Halloween at Disneyland, Oct. 26. Cost is \$69 for ages 3-11 and \$79 for adults.

■Halloween at Six Flags, Belgium, Oct. 26. Cost is \$49 for ages 3-9 and \$54 for adults.

■Frankenstein's Castle Family Day, Oct. 27. Cost is \$25 for ages 3-10, \$35 for adults.